

WI-640
John S. Adkins House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1883

Defining the northwest corner of the intersection of Poplar Hill Avenue and Walnut Street is a two-and-a-half story, three-bay, cross-gabled frame house which has survived with a relatively intact exterior since its late nineteenth construction. Emblematic of a house type built in large numbers throughout Wicomico County after the Civil War, the single-pile main block has a center hall and rooms to each side. The steeply pitched cross gable roof is defined by a pointed arch window that refers to the influence of the nationally popular Gothic Revival. The main block is extended to the rear with a sizable two-story service wing, another hallmark of the post Civil War era when kitchens were commonly joined to the house instead of being detached.

The construction of this two-and-a-half story frame dwelling occurred during the ownership of John S. Adkins, who acquired this lot on Poplar Hill Avenue and Walnut Street for \$250 in October 1882. The transfer price indicates clearly that the lot was unimproved by any substantial structures. Seven years later, in September 1889, John S. Adkins and his wife Alice sold the house and lot to Thomas R. Layfield for \$1600, a sum that represents an improved lot at the time. During the first half of the twentieth century the house and corner lot were held by Annie B. Higgins and her descendants. The property was not sold out of the Higgins-McGrath family until 1958.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-640

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic John S. Adkins House

other

2. Location

street and number 310 Poplar Hill Avenue ☐ not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity

county Wicomico

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ernest S. Price

street and number 31453 Old Ocean City Road telephone

city, town Salisbury state MD zip code 21804

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1633 folio 59

city, town Salisbury tax map 107 tax parcel 782 tax ID number 5-022975

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Current Function

☐ agriculture ☐ landscape
☐ commerce/trade ☐ recreation/culture
☐ defense ☐ religion
☒ domestic ☐ social
☐ education ☐ transportation
☐ funerary ☐ work in progress
☐ government ☐ unknown
☐ health care ☐ vacant/not in use
☐ industry ☐ other: _____

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-640

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John S. Adkins house stands at 310 Poplar Hill Avenue in the Newtown Historic District of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Poplar Hill Avenue and Walnut Street. The dwelling faces east with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1883, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay, single-pile frame dwelling is supported on a low brick foundation and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, three-bay service wing that appears to have been erected in two periods.

The east (main) façade is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows fitted with molded lintels. The front entrance is fitted with a heavily molded four-panel door with arched upper panels. The doorway is framed by a two-light transom and three-light sidelights. The adjacent windows are flanked by louvered shutters. Sheltering the first floor is a hip roofed porch featuring turned posts and decorative sawn corner brackets. A small cross gable is centered on the porch roof. The second story is lighted by three two-over-two sash windows and each opening is flanked by louvered shutters. The roof is defined by a center cross gable pierced by a pointed arch window. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave and enclosed soffit. Trimming the outside corners of the house are paneled pilasters that rise to the cornice.

The north gable end is marked by pairs of two-over-two sash windows that light the first and second floors, and each lintel has a slight crown molding. A pair of smaller two-over-two sash windows light the attic to either side of an interior end brick stack. The south gable end is finished in a similar fashion with an interior end stack and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The roof edge of each gable end is extended with returns at the base.

The rear (west) wall of the main block is largely covered by a two-story, three-bay service wing. The south side of the service wing has a paneled pilaster that rises between the second and third bay. The westernmost bay is topped by a cross gable pierced by a two-over-two sash window.

The west gable end wall of the service wing is defined by two-over-two sash windows on each floor. Attached to the north side of the kitchen wing is a two-story shed roofed porch.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-640

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Defining the northwest corner of the intersection of Poplar Hill Avenue and Walnut Street is a two-and-a-half story, three-bay, cross-gabled frame house which has survived with a relatively intact exterior since its late nineteenth-century construction. Emblematic of a house type built in large numbers throughout Wicomico County after the Civil War, the single-pile main block has a center hall and rooms to each side. The steeply pitched cross gable roof is defined by a pointed arch window that points to the influence of the nationally popular Gothic Revival. The main block is extended to the rear with a sizable two-story service wing, another hallmark of the post Civil War era when kitchens were commonly joined to the house instead of being detached.

The construction of this two-and-a-half story frame dwelling occurred during the ownership of John S. Adkins, who acquired this lot on Poplar Hill Avenue and Walnut Street for \$250 in October 1882.¹ The transfer price indicates clearly that the lot was unimproved by any substantial structures. Seven years later, in September 1889, John S. Adkins and his wife Alice sold the house and lot to Thomas R. Layfield for \$1600, a sum that represents an improved lot at the time.² During the first half of the twentieth century the house and lot were held by Annie B. Higgins and her descendants.³ The property was not sold out of the Higgins-McGrath family until 1958.⁴

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 5/155, 28 October 1882.

² Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 5/193, 2 September 1889.

³ Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 19/112, 23 January 1897;

⁴ Wicomico County Land Record, 448/34, 8 May 1958.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-640

Name John S. Adkins House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

John S. Adkins House
310 Poplar Hill Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 782

1633/59 Buela W. Twilley
 R. Dale Dashiell, Jr.

to

9/30/1998 Ernest N. Price

AJS 953/785 Buela W. Twilley

to

1/1/1981 Buela W. Twilley
 R. Dale Dashiell, Jr.

JWTS 448/187 Conrad O. Long and wife, Naomi

to

5/14/1958 Buela W. Twilley

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-640

Name John S. Adkins House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

448/34 J. Morris McGrath
Helen Higgins McGrath

to

5/8/1958 Conrad O. Long

JWTS 307/494 Anna Belle Farlow

to

10/20/1948 J. Morris McGrath

JWTS 307/493 Helen Higgins McGrath
J. Morris McGrath

to

10/19/1948 Anna Belle Farlow

JWTS 307/317 Ruth M. Dryden
Clarence W. Dryden of Queen County, New York

to

9/30/1940 Helen Higgins McGrath

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Maryland Inventory of
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Inventory No. WI-640

Name John S. Adkins House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

IDT 158/114

Annie B. Higgins
Leonard H. Higgins

to

3/6/1929

Ruth M. Higgins, previously Ruth M. Drdyen

JTT 19/112

Jay Williams, trustee

to

1/23/1897

Annie B. Higgins
Whereas Thomas R. Layfield and Ella Layfield on the 5 October
1893 issued a mortgage recorded JTT 13/85-87

FMS 5/193

John S. Adkins
Alice C. Adkins

to

9/2/1889

Thomas A. Layfield
\$1600

SPT 5/155

Levin D. Collier
Louisa Collier

to

10/28/1882

John S. Adkins
\$250

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WI-640

Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 4,526 square feet
Acreage of historical setting 4,526 square feet
Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	11/14/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

47000m E

35'

Salisbury, Maryland

Salisbury, Pennsylvania

Wicomico River

Bitter Head Point

Harbor Point

Williams Point

Nancy Point

Owl Point

Park Lake

Lakewood

Tonybank

WI-640

John S. Adkins House
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

John S. Adkins House
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



W1-640

John S. Adams House
Salem, Natick Co., MA.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

11/11, Park Tourist, Pictorial
NEG. / NO. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 or 2



W1-640

John S. Anic's House
SARISBURY, WINDHAM CO., N.H.
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

11/01, PAUL TOWN, PHOTOGRAPH
N.E. / AND INTERIOR VIEW

1 OF 2